## A Preliminary Assessment

of

Standard Chlorine

EPA No. DE-53

Emergency and Remedial Response Information System

Grant No. X-003282-01-0

December, 1983

Presented to: Mr. E. Skernolis, Acting Chief, Site Investigation

& Support Section, U.S. EPA, Region III

Prepared by: Delaware Department of Natural Resources

and Environmental Control, Solid Waste

Branch

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## Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Site History
- III. Environmental Setting
- IV. Preliminary Assessment Form
- V. Field Trip Summary Report
- VI. Maps and Drawings
- VII. Photographs
- VIII. References

I. Introduction

## Inquiry Source

Notification of spill (9/16/81).

## General Summary

A Preliminary Assessment (PA) and Site Inspection (SI) of Standard Chlorine (DE-53) was prepared by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) on September 9, 1982. Together with reports prepared by Roy F. Weston, Inc., the Standard Chlorine site has been thoroughly investigated, so a site visit is not necessary at this time. This Preliminary Assessment will compile past and on-going work done on the site.

On September 19, 1981 there was a tank car spill of approximately 5,000 gallons of reagent grade (99.9% pure) monochlorobenzene (MCB) at Standard Chlorine Plant in Delaware City, Delaware. The spill runoff traveled along drainage paths leading to Red Lion Creek, and some of the MCB entered the creek. However, most of the MCB entered the ground at the site.

Soil and groundwater tests showed that MCB contamination had occurred. 15

A 9/21/81 soil sample at the spill location showed MCB concentrations of 12,800 to 8800 ppm to a depth of 3 feet. Shortly after the spill, soil from the drainage ditch was excavated and stored in a diked, concrete pad. Approximately 40 gpm (from the spill date to the present, with occasional down time) of surface and subsurface (from the drainage ditch and groundwater) water was removed and treated at an on-site waste treatment facility. Periodic testing at the site by the DNREC shows that the groundwater is chaulky white and currently contains 63 ppm MCB. 4

Groundwater MCB levels were 120 ppm in June 1983 and probably would have been in the percent range (for MCB) if insoluable liquid was homogenized before the sample was analyzed (reported concentrations are from supernatent portion). Stream samples of Red Lion Creek indicate that most of the MC is tied up in the bottom. Mitte perch from Red Lion Creek had a MCB concen-

tration of 0.07 ppb. 18. In addition to MCB, groundwater sampling also showed contamination by benzene, ortho and paradichlorobenzene, and 1, 2, 4 - trichlorobenzene, indicating that previous leaks and spills of products had occured at the Standard Chlorine site.

Standard Chlorine and Roy F. Weston, Inc. are working on remedial activities to recover and treat the contaminants in the groundwater at the site, and these processes (including air stripping with exhaust gas consumed in an existing boiler) should be operational in the later half of 1984.

## Recommendations

Although the contamination of the groundwater at the Standard Chlorine site with benzene and chlorinated benzenes is serious, the DNREC feels that the previous investigations by the DNREC and Roy F. Weston, Inc. (for Standard Chlorine) are thorough. Standard Chlorine has assumed responsibility for abatement of the groundwater contamination. The DNREC will continue to monitor Standard Chlorine's remedial activities to assure that the groundwater is decontaminated to the extent possible. Periodic groundwater sampling should be continued (and is part of Standard Chlorine's contaminant abatement program which was accepted by DNREC) to better determine the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination as well as up and downstream sediment sampling of Red Lion Creek to determine if contaminated groundwater is entering the stream.

Site History

## Permits

Standard Chlorine has several air permits, NPDES permits, and a RCRA generator permit.  $^{17}$ 

## Site Owner

The property is owned by Standard Chlorine, Inc.

## Local Residents

None were contacted.

## Media Coverage

The following newspaper articles appeared in the Wilmington News Journal:

11/15/83 EPA checked the Standard Chlorine site for dioxin and none was found.

3/10/82 Standard Chlorine is one of 312 plants in 37 states cited by The National Clean Air Coalition (Washington, D.C.) for toxic emissions.

1/3/82 Suit filed by the DNREC against Standard Chlorine for wastewater effluent violations between August 1977 - January 1980 for \$23,000 and instruction to build additional wastewater treatment facilities.

### Other Background

An EPA biodegradability study concluded that stability to biodegradation increases with more highly chlorinated phenols.<sup>5</sup> Another report stated that all substituted benzenes biodegrade to some extent, and that MCB is reasonably mobile while 1, 2, 4-trichlorobenzene is significantly retained by the soil.<sup>6</sup> A 10/30/73 groundwater analysis from a Diamond Shamrock well (east and adjacent to Standard Chlorine) shows contamination with ortho and paradichlorobenzene.<sup>14 & 15</sup> This contamination is probably due to leaks and spills at Standard Chlorine or from its discharge pipe which outfalls to the Delaware River and crosses Diamond Shamrock's property since these substances are used at Standard Chlorine and groundwater may flow towards Diamond Shamrock's wells from the Standard Chlorine site or wastewater pipeline.<sup>20</sup>

#### Enforcement Status

The DNREC is now monitoring remedial work by Standard Chlorine to recover groundwater contaminated with benzene and chlorinated benzenes as a result of the 9/16/81 spill and other leaks and spills.

III. Environmental Setting

## Surface Water

The site is 0.25 miles south of Red Lion Creek and 0.75 miles west of the Delaware River. Stream sampling and bioassays in the Red Lion Creek have detected trace levels of MCB. 3 & 18 Both water bodies are somewhat brackish at this location and are not used as a drinking water supply (Getty Refining & Marketing Co. has a water intake on Red Lion Creek further upstream, near Rt. 13).

## Groundwater

The water table in this area is approximately 6 feet below the ground surface. Shallow groundwater appears to flow northeast from the site to the Red Lion Creek.

Geology and Soils

The soil is composed of Matapeake silt loam. The Columbia Formation is 45 feet thick at the site and the Potomac Formation lies below it. It is uncertain if the two aquifers are hydraulically connected, however, the uppermost Potomac sediments encountered in test borings are fine-grained and nearby wells (owned by Getty and Diamond Chemicals) in the Potomac Formation show the aquifer to be confined. 20

### Land Use

The area is mostly industrialized. However, there are farms to the south and west of the site. $^{10}$ 

## Population Distribution

Delaware City lies 2 miles southeast of the site and has 1900 residents. The City of New Castle lies 5 miles northeast of the site and has 4900 residents. 9

See Section II, part IX of the previous DNREC report.

## Water Supply

Getty Refining & Marketing Company has 8 industrial water supply wells (which are also used for drinking water in the plant) within 1.5 mi<sup>1</sup> of the Standard Chlorine plant. The Getty wells are 350-850 ft the aquifers of the Potomac Formation), and no benzene or chlorinated benzenes have

been indentified in the water to date. 11 Standard Chlorine's water, including drinking water, is supplied by Wilmington Suburban Water Company (whose source of supply is surface water from another stream drainage basin). 12 Critical Environments

The drainage path to the west of the plant that flows into Red Lion Creek into which some of the MCB spill flowed includes a tidal wetlands area. The site is also approximately 1500 feet south of the tidal wetlands area along the Red Lion Creek. 13

IV. Preliminary Assessment Form

# & EPA

# POTE .IAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE IDENTIFICATION AND PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

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III

NOTE: This form is completed for each potential hazardous waste site to help set priorities for site inspection. The information submitted on this form is based on available records and may be updated on subsequent forms as a result of additional inquiries and on-site inspections.

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C. CITY	D. STATE	E. ZIP CODE	F. COUNT		
Delaware City	DE	19706	New Ca	astle	
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V. WASTE RELATED INFORMATION (confinueu)

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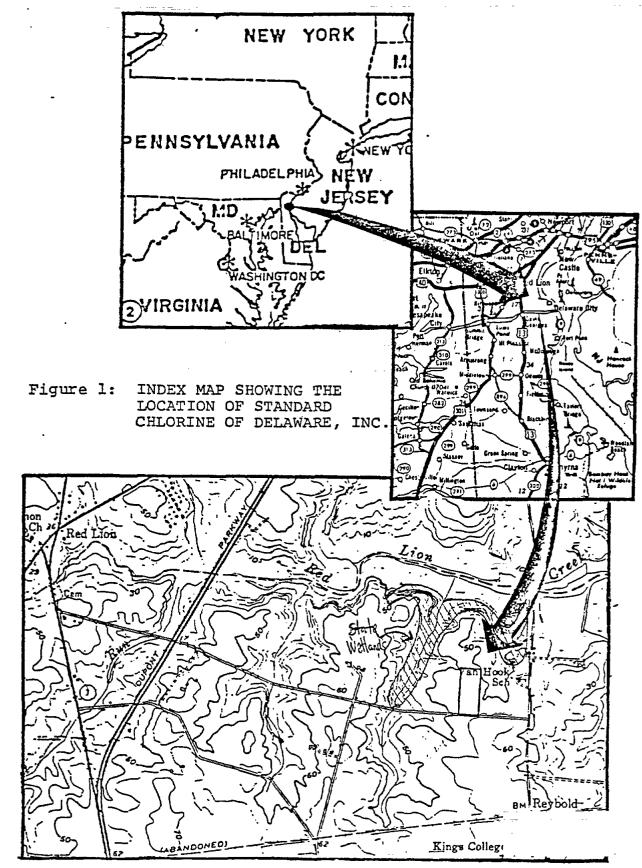
V. Field Trip Summary Report

## Field Trip Summary Report

A site visit was not conducted at this time due to the extent of work performed previously.

VI. Maps and Drawings





VII. Photographs

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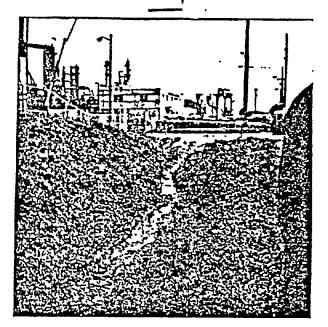


9 STANDARD CHLORINE RT. 6F-SFILL

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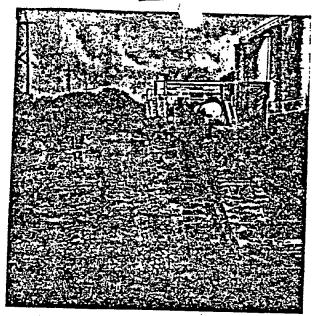


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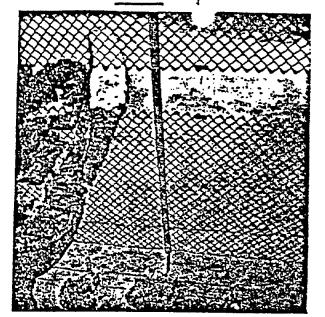


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VIII. AReferences

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